Development of cotton Handloom Industry in Andhra Pradesh

*151. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is potential for the development of cotton handloom industry in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details of assistance proposed to be provided by his Ministry to Andhra Pradesh for the exploration and development of this potential?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

Statement

In order to preserve the unique role of handlooms and also to ensure higher earnings for the handloom weavers, Central Government is implementing a package of scheme for the development of handloom sector in all the States of the country, including Andhra Pradesh, like—

(i) Share capital assistance to handloom weavers to enrol them as members of cooperative societies;

(ii) Assistance for modernisation of looms;

(iii) Financial assistance to State Handloom Development Corporations and Handloom Cooperative Societies for setting up pre-loom and post-loom processing facilities;

(iv) Market Development Assistance scheme which has replaced the erstwhile schemes of special debate, share capital assistance to State apex cooperative societies and handloom development corporations and managerial subsidy to primary societies;

(v) Janata Cloth Scheme;

(vi) Thrift Fund Scheme;

(vii) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme;

(viii) Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme;

(ix) Loan assistance to the National Cooperative Development Corporation for setting up of weavers cooperative spinning mills and expansion of capacity in the existing mills to biuld up captive production for the handloom sector;

(x) Setting up of yarn depots through the National Handloom Development Corporation for supply of yarn to handloom weavers at millgate prices; and

(xi) Setting up of the National Handloom Development Corporation with the main aim of supplying yarn to the handloom sector.

In addition certain fiscal concessions are also extended to the handloom sector to enable it to compete with the products of mills and powerlooms. Further 22 items have been reserved for exclusive production in the handloom sector through the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985, Government of India have also provided financial support to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of an enforcement machinery in the State. Financial assistance under various schemes is provided to all States including Andhra Pradesh, on the basis of the proposals received from concerned State Government every year.